

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of operating an application program having a graphical user interface (GUI), the method including the steps of:

predicting a next user input to the GUI;

pending receipt of the next user input, executing a preparation portion of GUI code that provides the GUI function required by the predicted user input; and

determining whether the predicted user input corresponds to the actual next user input and, on a positive determination, processing an activation portion of said GUI code to complete the required GUI function.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, including the further step of:

maintaining a history of user inputs to the GUI; wherein the step of predicting the next user input at a particular GUI state is based on an analysis of the history of previous user inputs at the particular GUI state.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, including the further step of maintaining a history of user inputs to the GUI at each GUI state, the step of predicting the next user input at a particular GUI state comprising the step of determining whether to base the prediction on the maintained history or on a record of recent user inputs to the GUI.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the prediction step comprises predicting a potential sequence of user inputs and the execution step comprises executing a preparation portion of GUI code for each of the user inputs of the predicted sequence.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the prediction step comprises predicting a plurality of alternative potential user inputs and the execution step comprises executing a preparation portion of GUI code for each of the alternative user inputs.

6. (Original) Data processing apparatus comprising:

means for predicting a next user input to a graphical user interface (GUI) provided by the apparatus;

pending receipt of the next user input, means for executing a preparation portion of GUI code that provides the GUI function required by the predicted user input; and

means for determining whether the next received user input corresponds with the predicted next user input and, on a positive determination, for processing an activation portion of said GUI code to complete the required GUI function.

7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A computer-usable medium embodying computer program code, the computer program code comprising computer executable instructions configured to:

predict a next user input to the GUI;

pending receipt of the next user input, execute a preparation portion of GUI code that provides the GUI function required by the predicted user input; and

determine whether the predicted user input corresponds to the actual next user input and, on a positive determination, process an activation portion of said GUI code to complete the required GUI function.

9. (New) The computer-usable medium of claim 8, wherein the embodied computer program code further comprises computer executable instructions configured to maintain a history of user inputs to the GUI; wherein the computer executable instruction configured to predict the next user input at a particular GUI state is based on an analysis of the history of previous user inputs at the particular GUI state.

10. (New) The computer-usable medium of claim 8, wherein the embodied computer program code further comprises computer executable instructions configured to maintain a history of user inputs to the GUI at each GUI state, wherein the computer executable instruction configured to predict the next user input at a particular GUI state further comprises computer executable instructions configured to determine whether to base the prediction on the maintained history or on a record of recent user inputs to the GUI.

11. (New) The computer-usable medium of claim 8, wherein:

the computer executable instructions configured to predict a next user input further comprises computer executable instructions configured to predict a potential sequence of user inputs; and

the computer executable instructions configured to execute a preparation portion of GUI code further comprises computer executable instructions configured to execute a preparation portion of GUI code for each of the user inputs of the predicted sequence.

12. (New) The computer-usable medium of claim 8, wherein the computer executable instructions configured to predict a next user imputer further comprises computer executable instructions configured to predict a plurality of alternative potential user inputs; and

the computer executable instructions configured to execute a preparation portion of GUI code further comprises computer executable instructions configured to execute a preparation portion of GUI code for each of the user inputs of the predicted sequence.